This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 21 (canceled)

22. (new) A lifting device comprising:

a column generally vertical when the lifting device is in an operating position, said column including two rear channels and two forwardly open channels extending the length of said column, each of said rear channels having a passageway open to the front of said column;

a carriage positioned to the front of said column and normally generally horizontal when the lifting device is in an operating position,

a pair of spaced forks at one end of said carriage, each having an one end connected to said carriage and the other end operatively connected to said column;

at least one rear bearing adjacent the other end of each of said forks, said rear bearing of one of said forks riding in one of said rear channels and the said rear bearing of the other of said forks riding in the other of said rear channels; and

a fork bearing on each fork positioned downwardly and forwardly from the rear bearing, said fork bearing of one of said forks riding in one of said forwardly open channels and the fork bearing of the other of said forks riding in the other of said forwardly open channels whereby said carriage is moveable along said column.

23. (new) The lifting device of calm 22 further including a slide having two ears, said column having two flanges, said ears engaging said flanges to support said slide for movement along said column, and a lead screw in engagement with

said slide to move said slide along said column upon rotation of said lead screw, said slide being operatively connected to said forks to move said forks along said column as said lead screw is rotated.

24. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 wherein said device can be folded with said column and said carriage generally parallel, so that said device can be transported or stored.

25. (new) The lifting device of claim 24 wherein said device includes a brake mechanism that can be activated when said device is folded.

26. (new) The lifting device of claim 23 wherein said lead screw is disposed within said column.

27. (new) The lifting device of claim 26 wherein said lead screw is rotated by an electric motor, said electric motor receiving power from a source internal to said device.

28. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 wherein a chassis attached to a lower end of said column underlies said carriage and rests on a surface upon which said device is disposed.

29. (new) The lifting device of claim 28 wherein said device has first wheels disposed at a lower end of said column and pads and/or second wheels disposed at a distal end of said chassis.

30. (new) The lifting device of claim 24 further comprising a handle attached to said column to aid in carrying said device when said device is in its folded position.

31. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 further comprising tie down straps connected to sides of said carriage to secure said load.

32. (new) The lifting device of claim 31 wherein said tie down straps can be selectively positioned along said side of said carriage.

33. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 wherein said carriage can be selectively manually lengthened or shortened.

34. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 further comprising an upper ball foot disposed at an upper end of said column that engages a surface on which said device is placed when said column is horizontal.

35. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 further comprising arms extending generally horizontally from said column to stabilize said load.

36. (new) The lifting device of claim 35 further comprising at least one strap extending from at least one of said arms to stabilize said load.

37. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 further comprising a crane structure extending from said column.

38. (new) The lifting device of claim 29 wherein at least one of said first wheels is driven by a motor.

39. (new) The lifting device of claim 29 wherein each of said second wheels comprises:

(a) a vertical circular wheel disposed on a horizontal shaft;

(b) said horizontal shaft operatively connected to a horizontal plate disposed above said horizontal shaft; and

(c) said horizontal plate engaging generally horizontal ball bearings disposed between a plate fixedly connected to said carriage and said horizontal plate, said plate being disposed beneath said horizontal plate.

40. (new) The lifting device of claim 29 wherein each of said second wheels comprises at least two configurations manually selectable by rotation of said second wheels.

41. (new) The lifting device of claim 29 wherein each of said first wheels has a relatively soft circular movable covering placed thereabout to assist said first wheels in maneuvering across soft terrain.

42. (new) The lifting device of claim 41 wherein said relatively soft circular movable covering is filled with a foam material.

43. (new) The lifting device of claim 22 wherein said carriage is configured to hold thereon a toolbox, a chest of drawers, a seat of a vehicle, a circular container, or an object in a vise disposed at an edge of said platform.